Cancer deaths in the country

664. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5.5 lakhs people die of cancer every year in the country and 8 lakhs new cancer cases occur almost simultaneously;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 70 per cent of all cancer deaths occur in low and middle income countries and cancer is the fourth most common cause of the death in India after heart diseases; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to check this deadly disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per data collected through National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an estimated 4.4 lakhs people die of cancer every year and about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year. At any given point of time there are 2.5 million cancer patients in the country.

(b) According to International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO), Lyon, France it is estimated that about 74% of cancer deaths occur in low and middle income countries. The report of Registrar General for the survey in 1998 has placed cancer as the 4th commonest cause of the death in India.

(c) Considering the fact that about 50% cancer deaths are due to Tobacco use, the Central Govt. has enacted a comprehensive tobacco control legislation titled 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' to discourage the consumption of tobacco. National Tobacco Control Programme has been launched recently with a view to ensuring effective implementation of Law and Rules and also for creating awareness on the ill effects of Tobacco & providing Tobacco cessation services for the users.

In addition, the Central Govt., under National Cancer Control Programme is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Oncology Wings in Govt. Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. Under NCCP special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities including testing facilities in respective region/States are provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centre recognized under NCCP.

Electro-homoeopathy Doctors

665. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of doctors with the qualifications of electro-homoeopathy are unemployed because of non-recognition of this system in the country;